

CANBERRA.A.C.T.

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EVENING PAPERS : FRIDAY, 21st MAY, 1948

MORNING PAPERS : SATURDAY, 22nd MAY, 1948

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

MARCH, 1948

EMPLOYMENT AGAIN RISING.

Despite the continued effect of industrial trouble in Queensland the number of wage and salary earners in employment in Australia, (exclusive of employees in rural industry and females in private domestic service) reached an all time high at the end of March, 1948. The number of males employed rose by 9,100 to 1,695,300, and females rose by 5,200 to 639,600, the total persons in employment being 2,334,900. The rise was general, both male and female employment rising in all States.

RISE IN GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.

The total number of Government Employees rose in all States although in South Australia there was no increase in the number of females employed. Commonwealth Government Employment increased by 1,700 males, the number of females being unaltered, while 7,300 additional males and 1,700 additional females were employed by State and Semi-Governmental authorities. Local Government bodies employed 300 males and 100 females above March figures. The increase in State Government Employment was accounted for largely by the re-entry into employment of Queensland railway workers, together with the annual influx of new teachers in State Education departments.

CHANGE IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.

With the return to work of many Queensland railway employees, the total numbers engaged in transport rose, though it was still below the figure for January. The rise in figures for rail and air transport was offset to some extent by a fall of 1,700 in the number engaged in shipping and stevedoring, due to the waterside workers' sympathy strike in Queensland, where the number employed dropped by 2,600; employment in this industry rose in all other states. Employment in mines and quarries was also affected by the Queensland Industrial dispute and fell slightly, while the brewery workers strike in New South Wales caused a decline of 1,200 in the number of hotel employees in that State. All other industries shared in the general increase in employment, the major increase being in the building and construction group which rose by 1,900.

LITTLE CHANGE IN FACTORY EMPLOYMENT.

There were no major alterations in factory employment figures, but there was an increase of 700 in the number employed in the food industry, due to the peak of the fruit canning season in Southern States, which more than offset the seasonal fall in sugar mills and meat works in Queensland. Other industries in which employment increased were the manufacture of Bricks, Pottery and Glass (500), Chemicals, Oils, Paints, etc. (400), Paper, Printing, etc. (200) and Rubber (200). Decreases were recorded in Sawmilling, (400) mainly in Queensland Metals, Machinery and Vehicle Manufacture (200), Treatment of Mine and Quarry products (100), Woodworking, Furniture Making, etc. (100) and Miscellaneous (100).

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